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CAMPUS | EVENT

Most-fit crowned in bodybuilding contest

Dudzik wins Mr. EIU,
Silvestri named Ms. EIU

By EUN-YONG PARK
Staff Reporter

After months of training and struggling through diet and daily exercise, Chester Dudzik and Jaclyn Silvestri were crowned Mr. and Ms. EIU Fitness, respectively.

Students, family and friends crowded into the Grand Ballroom in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Friday night for the annual bodybuilding contest.

Overall, 12 students competed in the Mr./Ms. EIU Fitness competition.

The crowd cheered and chanted throughout the night in support of the competitors.

Starting off the competition was the Ms. EIU contest.

For Ms. EIU Fitness, judges looked for symmetry and a well-proportioned body, as well as athleticism, the routine and maneuver.

Silvestri, a sophomore physical education and health/drivers' education major, competed against two other women to take home the title Ms. EIU Fitness.

"It's a relief to win this competition, and I worked so hard to be here," she said.

Despite Silvestri's own commitment to the competition, her family also dealt with the hardships it took to eventually win the Ms. EIU Fitness competition.

"My parents had to go through my pains of only eating certain foods, but this challenge for me and everyone around me was an experi-

THE WINNERS

- Ms. EIU: Jaclyn Silvestri
- Mr. EIU: Chester Dudzik
- Mr. EIU bantam weight class winner: Mike Leon
- Mr. EIU middle weight class winner: Chester Dudzik
- Mr. EIU heavy weight class winner: Austin Signor

"It's a relief to win this competition, and I worked so hard to be here."

— Jaclyn Silvestri, named Ms. EIU

ence once in a lifetime," she said.

Karen Armour took second place, and Lauren Sopczic took third.

"We are all in great shape, and I'm proud of what I accomplished finishing the entire competition, because we all worked hard," said Sopczic, a junior biology major.

Armour, a dietetics graduate student, was looking forward to competing, having previously competed at Southern Illinois University in 2003.

"I'm really excited to be part of this competition, and I feel great, and I'm good with the second place," Armour said.

For the Mr. EIU fitness contest, three different weight classes competed first in their own class. The winners of each category then competed against each other for the title of Mr. EIU.

For Mr. EIU, the judges looked at whether the muscles can be seen clearly, whether the competitor is a good poser and whether his body is symmetrical.

Out of four competitors in the bantam weight class, Mike Leon won the title of Mr. EIU in this weight fraction.

"I won last year in this same weight class, and I hope I can move up a weight class in the next year's

competition," said Leon, a journalism major.

Advancing to the next round, Leon saw disappointment though in the final competition.

"I fell short of winning the overall, and I really wanted to win, but I'm happy for the winner," Leon said.

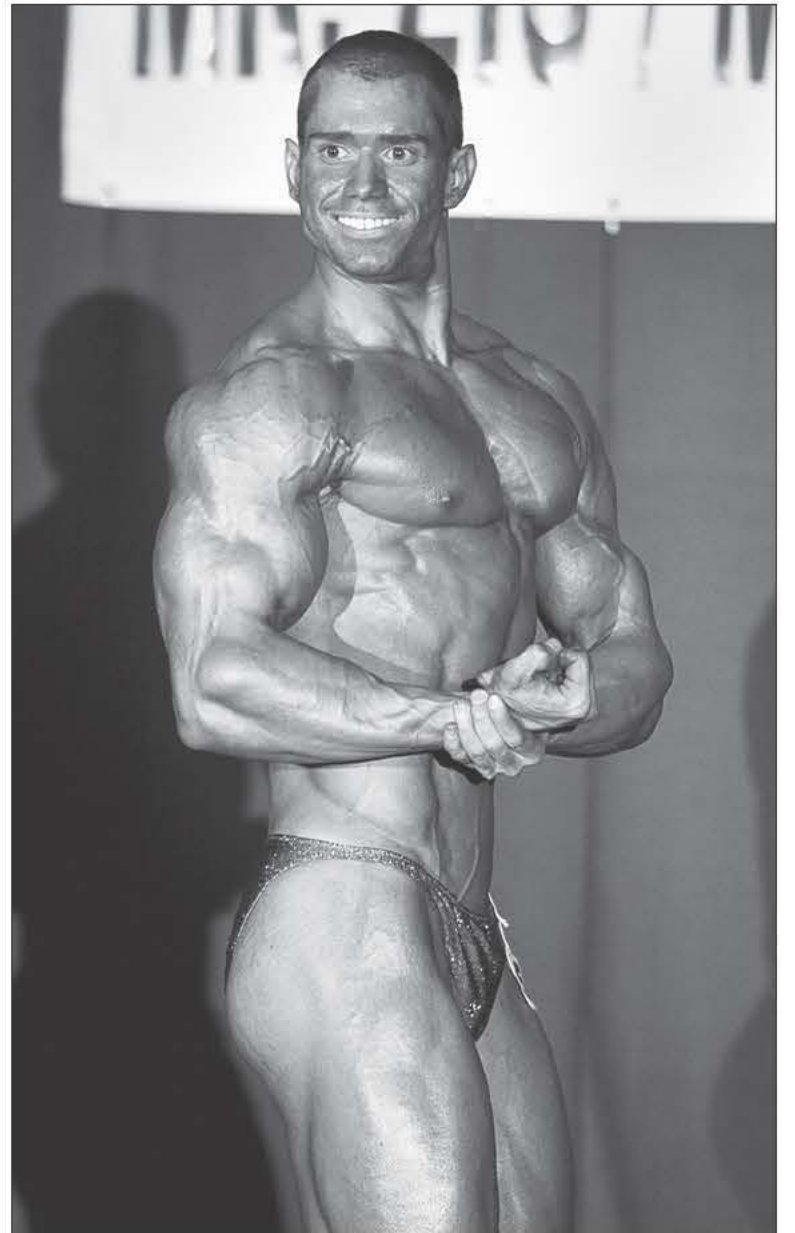
Austin Signor, a junior economics major, was the winner of the heavy weight class. He said he was overwhelmed and grateful for the support of his football teammates.

"I had to juggle football practice and exercising for this event around 90 days ahead, and it was hard, and without the incredible support of my teammates and friends, I could not have made it this far," Signor said.

Dudzik, a junior biology and pre-med major, won the title in the middleweight class division. After winning the title Mr. EIU, he found it hard to describe his joy in words.

"I worked out so hard for many years, and I made a lot of sacrifices to get where I am tonight," Dudzik said. "I am speechless and my dream has finally come true."

Eun-Yong Park can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENnewsdesk@gmail.com.



ROBBIE WROBLEWSKI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior biological science major Chester Dudzik took first place in the middle weight and overall portions of the Mr. EIU competition Saturday evening in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

UNIVERSITY | BOARD OF TRUSTEES

New systems approved for textbook rental

Board authorizes new appointments, contracts at meeting

By KRYSTAL MOYA
Administration Editor

The Eastern Board of Trustees moved forward with steps to complete the construction of the new Textbook Rental Services building by approving the purchase of new advanced technology operating systems for the site at the board meeting Friday.

In addition, insights on the progress of the Student Success Center and the building of its new facility were given. The board also approved two athletic personnel contracts and the appointment of a representative to the Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative.

"In November, the board approved the construction of the textbook rental facility," said Paul McCann, interim vice president for business affairs. "And this facility provides us with the opportunity to improve the services we provide to the students."

The facility's budget called for the



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Chairperson Roger Kratochvil laughs during the Board of Trustees meeting after a board member said a joke Friday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

purchase of a self-checkout and automated material handling systems – a technologically advanced system for checkout and returns. The system uses radio frequency identification chips, conveyor belts and scanners to cut processing and waiting time in both areas.

"This item specifically provides us

with the self-checkout of the textbook, the ability to automate the return process and automatic service capability," McCann said. "Each textbook will have a radio frequency identification chip placed in it to allow this process to work."

» SEE TRUSTEES, PAGE 5



Check out the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament recap special section.

CAMPUS | EVENT

Middle Eastern crisis addressed

By HEATHER HOLM
Activities Editor

Two conflicting viewpoints on the Middle East will be available to the public today.

One is from Israel and will show the Israeli side of the Middle Eastern crisis, and the other is the ambassador from the League of the Arab States to the United States, to show the Arab side of the issue.

Ping Chen, director of the Public Policy Institute at the college of sciences, invited two dignitaries to Eastern for the all-day conference on the Middle East.

The Egyptian ambassador Hussein Hassouna will be speaking on behalf of all 22 Arab nations.

Robert Schwartz, the senior policy adviser to the Consul General of Israel, will be speaking for Israel.

"He is in charge of political and international policies of Israel," Chen said.

Chen said since these two men are enemies, they had to be contacted separately to attend the conference at Eastern.

"We wanted to have a balance of information," Chen said. "We know they both disagree on international issues. When you have a dispute with someone, we don't want to just hear from you. We want to hear from your neighbor too."

However, they will not be sharing the same panel.

Hassouna will present the keynote address at 7:30 p.m. in the Theatre of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Schwartz will speak at the panels "The Challenges of Iran to the West and the Arab World" at 2 p.m. and "Palestine and Israel: A Two-State Solution" at 3:30 p.m.

Another panel discussion topic includes "The Future of Iraq" from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

» SEE PANEL, PAGE 5

CAMPUS | PERFORMANCE

Annual recital reflects year's work

Dancers spin, twirl, tap, leap through weekend

By KARLA BROWNING
Staff Reporter

As the lights clicked on in the McAfee Gymnasium, Kimberly Zydek took a deep breath and entered the stage.

Zydek, president of the EIU Dancers, has been practicing for this moment for 12 weeks.

From backstage, Zydek could see about 150 people awaiting the start of the EIU Dancer's annual spring concert, "True Expression," Friday and Saturday night.

"Waiting is the worst part," Zydek said. "I run everything through my head right beforehand as I warm up just in case."

The recital, sponsored by the department of kinesiology and sports studies, was broken into two acts that included a total of 18 performances.

One of the performances was a solo act performed by Zydek.

"I was really nervous that I was not going to get the turn, but I did, and I think it turned out really well," she said.

Jeanna McFarland, EIU Dancers adviser, said this weekend was a huge success.

"I am really proud of these girls for



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kaitlyn Kavanaugh performs the first dance of the group's annual show Saturday in the McAfee Gym.

all their hard work," McFarland said. "They did a great job and the show went very well."

Different dances ranging from jazz, modern, tap, ballet and hip-hop were displayed in the show.

"This show was an opportunity for the community to be exposed to different dances," Zydek said. "We all love dancing, and this show was a way to show that to others."

The EIU Dancers' officers started working in the fourth week of the fall

semester to try and incorporate all 18 dancers' ideas.

"The show reflected everything the girls wanted," McFarland said. "They all worked on the choreography and picked out the music and costumes."

A piece titled "Downtown Girls," by Billy Joel and choreographed by the officers featured four special guests.

"The girls recruited their friends who were boys to add them to the dance," McFarland said. "It was the girls' idea, and they thought it would

add some humor to the show."

McFarland also made a special appearance on stage.

"She always stretches and practices with us, so getting her out on stage was to showcase her dedication to the dancers," Zydek said.

McFarland said all the hard work pays off to see "the kids out there having a good time."

Karla Browning can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENnewsdesk@gmail.com.

CAMPUS | FACULTY FORUM

Forum to focus on academic freedom

By KELLY CREMENT
Staff Reporter

The floor for discussion on academic freedom is the focal point of the University Professionals of Illinois and Faculty Senate forum "Academic Freedom in the Age of Information Technology and the Industrial Model of Education."

The forum was named that because of the context these aspects of modern society create for the exercise of free inquiry and expression, said Charles Delman, Eastern chapter president.

"Information technology has greatly reduced the privacy of what goes on in a classroom or any oth-

er setting, and it has also greatly increased the dispersal of information," he said.

The forum will focus on academic freedom and what its boundaries are. Gary Aylesworth, a philosophy professor, is the opening panelist. Aylesworth will speak about the rights and responsibilities of teachers when they share their ideas and findings.

Jocelyn Tipton, a librarian from Booth Library, will discuss how academic freedom affects students and their use of library services.

"Our other panelists will discuss academic freedom issues that relate to their experiences in the classroom or particular concerns they

have in this regard," Delman said.

Delman encourages students to attend because academic freedom decides the type of education students receive.

He also stressed with student participation, faculty better understand the concerns students have about academic freedom.

"We hope that many topics will be raised by the audience," Delman said. "The plan is to have the presentations by the panelists be very brief, allowing for a lot of interchange with the audience."

Information technology has increased the distribution of information and reduced the privacy of what goes on in classrooms.

Delman said comments on Web sites like "Rate My Professor" and the ability to record professors without their knowledge compromises academic freedom and changes the student professor relationship.

"Forums are sponsored by the University Professionals of Illinois, which is a union that represents faculty and academic support professionals, and the EIU Faculty Senate," Delman said.

The forum is at 7 p.m. in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Kelly Crement can be reached at 581-7942 or DENnewsdesk@gmail.com.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Presentation to explore ancestral Pueblo

Jim Krehbiel will speak about his exploration, photography and subsequent artwork of the ancestral Pueblo people in the canons of Cedar Mesa, Utah, during "Art and Archaeoastronomy: Anasazi Astronomical Shrine Sites."

His presentation, which will look at architecture, art and astronomy, is at 7 p.m. today in the Doudna Fine Arts Center's lecture hall, Room 1210.

Students collecting used batteries, food

The EIU College of Science Student Advisory Board is conducting a used-battery drive and a food drive through March 13 to benefit the environment and area residents.

The student group will recycle the batteries to keep them out of landfills, and the food drive will benefit the Catholic Charities' food pantry.

Collection boxes are set up throughout the campus and in the residence halls.

For more information, contact member Amanda Steber at alsteber@eiu.edu.

—Compiled by Associate News Editor Emily Zulz

BLOTTER

A theft was reported at Stevenson Hall Tuesday, said the University Police Department.

Nicole Sharp, 22, of Charleston, was charged with driving under the influence of drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia after a 2:50 a.m. Wednesday arrest at Fourth Street and Taft Avenue, police said.

CORRECTION

In Thursday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, Jon Jans was misidentified.

The DEN regrets the error.


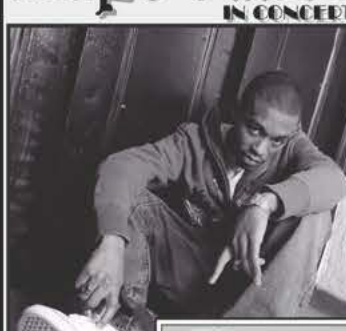
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CHRIS KROMPHARDT

What Student
Government does

Any good administrator, manager or leader knows that establishing goals and an overarching purpose for his organization are crucial steps toward success. The parameters within which a group works must be clearly defined in order to maximize efficiency and reduce confusion as much as possible.

Groups fail all the time because they've neglected to ask themselves, "What do we do?"

This may seem to be a simple question, but really, it's not uncommon for there to be a disconnect between leaders, followers and everyone else affected by a group's actions, one that produces confusion and inefficiency at best and organizational collapse at worst.

While these realities abound for those banks and investment firms that are having trouble remaining solvent, they also hit much closer to home for a group that affects Eastern students more than most of them know. This group has its up and downs, just like any other, but suffers from a uniquely, shall we say, Eastern identity crisis.

In my experience, the mention of Student Government usually produces several different reactions: rolling one's eyes, snickering, "I know so-and-so who's on it, but I don't really know what they do" — students' perceptions of their governing body run the gamut from a fleeting familiarity to apathy to disdain. It seems the only students who know what Student Government actually does are those who are either on it, those who are dating or are best friends with someone who is and those who report for *The Daily Eastern News*.

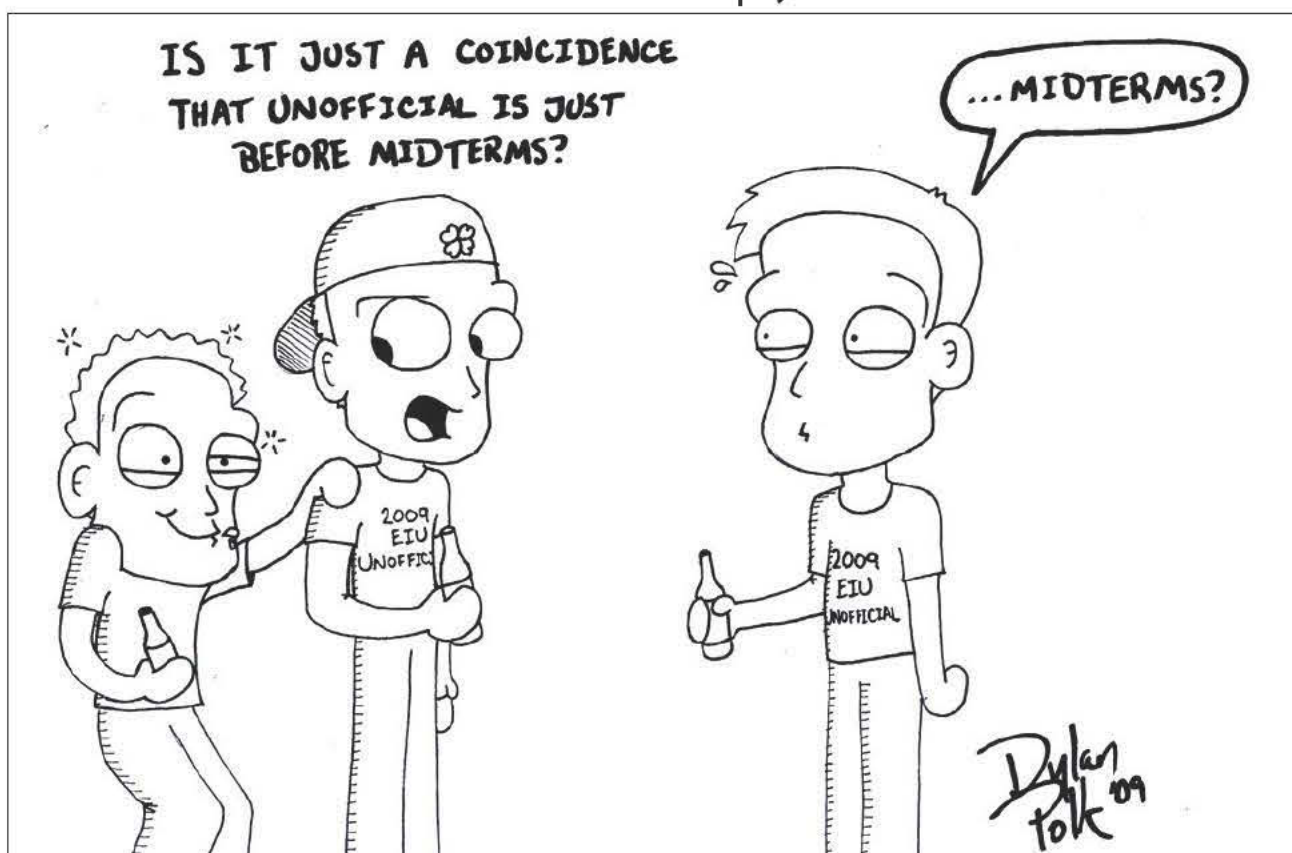
While I'm sure some would argue with me about whether this is a problem, claiming that Student Government is just an impotent group with no real power and its members are a bunch of opportunistic, precocious students looking to play pretend government while padding their resumes, I will not be dissuaded. I argue that students ought to care about or at least be aware of what we do. I do this because it's my job.

Most students only get a taste of Student Government through articles in *The DEN* or those four days throughout the school year when elections are held. This is our fault, and meeting after meeting we talk, talk, talk about connecting more with students. Sometimes we succeed in reversing this trend, addressing a real student need and letting the student body know we did so, such as with Campus Safety events and issue forums such as the Electronic Writing Portfolio forum. We do this by finding a real student need, and using our ability to lobby the administration to gain its support. We do this very, very well.

If you were to ask any member what he liked best about the job, I have no doubt he (or she) would say it's when the students actually care about what we've done. Whether it's for a diversity requirement or a fan bus, Student Government laps up student participation in our meetings like a small child starved for attention. Government is a two-way street; we can't force our constituents to grant us legitimacy through their support and their votes. It's hard to represent anyone other than ourselves when it seems no one else cares.

Chris Kromphardt is a senior political science major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com.

Drawn from the News | Dylan Polk



STAFF EDITORIAL

Women's basketball:
Thanks for a great season!

Yes, the Eastern women's basketball team lost for the second season in a row in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament Championship.

No, there are no NCAA Tournament bids. And the Women's National Invitational Tournament is a long outside chance.

But this program has come a long way. They used to be at the bottom of the league. The easy win on the schedule.

Now, the Panthers are at the top of the league. A lot of that work was on the labor of the seniors and juniors.

"We wanted to come in here and change something," said senior forward Lindsey Kluempers. "We want to make a name for this program."

And they did.

The Panthers had never challenged for a conference title before. They made the tourney title game for the first time last season. They got to host a first-round game for the first time last season. They built a strong 20-game winning streak in Lantz Arena.

They played defense and executed their offense.

They gave Eastern pride in its women's basketball program.

They set the Division I program record for number of wins this season (24).

"They really picked this program up," Eastern junior forward Maggie Kloak said.

Now the task will be to continue the program. And while five seniors — Julie Lipperd, Ellen Canale, Megan Edwards, Lindsey Kluempers and Rachel Galligan — have given a lot to this program, there's still work to be done.

It's not going to be easy to maintain the program where it is. There are a lot of other competitive teams in the league. Austin

"We wanted to come in here and change something. We want to make a name for this program."
— Eastern senior forward Lindsey Kluempers

Peay, the OVC Tournament Champion, only had one senior on its team.

But with Kloak, junior guard Ashley Thomas, red-shirt junior guard Dominique Sims, freshman guard Pilar Walker and freshman forward Chantelle Pressley — there is a solid foundation.

Add in junior guard Lauren Sturtevant, freshman guard Madeline Kish and junior forward Marie Baker and a five-member recruiting class, there is a possibility that this team has the tools for success.

It won't be easy, but this team knows about winning (43-22 in two seasons) and how to win.

That desire, along with the right players and the right coaching, can lead to more successful seasons.

These past two seasons have been a thrill, and something Eastern won't forget.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial is the majority opinion of *The DEN* editorial board. Reach the opinions editor at: DENopinions@gmail.com.

OTHER VIEWS ON THE NEWS

PROTECTIONISM IS
DANGEROUS IN RECESSION

HARVARD — First it was a "credit crunch," then it was an "economic crisis" and now a "global economic downturn." But, with Japan in recession, Europe in recession and the United States in recession, it is high time we face our fears: We are living through a global recession. Still, the worst may be yet to come—if policymakers continue to push for short-sighted economic nationalism, they will make sure this becomes the worst bogeyman of them all: a global depression.

In the past weeks and months, gov-

ernments around the world have been attempting to fight the economic crisis with monetary and fiscal measures. On the monetary side, even prudish authorities like the European Central Bank have joined the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Bank of England in slashing interest rates to create incentives for lending and borrowing. Amidst what started as a credit crunch, this was an essential step toward keeping economies afloat when trust suddenly evaporated not only for risky assets, but also for credit-worthy corporations.

On the fiscal side, most countries are rushing to pass stimulus bills to prevent

the phantom of deflation from materializing itself: From developed countries like Germany to developing nations such as India and China, everyone seems to be doing it. By far the most publicized attempt has been President Obama's euphemistically named American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which flew through Congress a couple of weeks ago. But in measures like these hides perhaps the most pervasive economic threat to future global stability and prosperity: economic nationalism.

Pierpaolo Barbieri
Harvard Crimson

Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*.

The DEN's policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. They must be less than 250 words.

Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.

» Trustees

FROM PAGE 1

The purchase was made for no more than \$750,000 from Technology in White Bear Lake, Minn. McCann said administrators and planners spent a lengthy amount of time researching the new technology and its advantages.

"We have toured several local libraries where this system has been used and got positive reviews from their operators," he said about researching other bidders.

Eric Wilber, student executive vice president and student trustee, said the students already approved the purchase for a \$1 per credit hour fee increase.

"The students are in full support of this," he said. "This was already included in the budget for the textbook rental facility and was approved by the students."

Board members William O'Rourke and Julie Nimmons commended the purchase.

"After thorough explanation — we were a bit of a hard sell — McCann convinced us that this was a good purchase," O'Rourke said. "It is more a student-benefit

than an economic-benefit, but we keep our service to our students a top priority."

"I would like to commend the students for taking a step forward and approving this purchase because the majority are doing so with the knowledge that they will never use this facility," Nimmons said.

The facility is expected to open in spring 2010.

As the Textbook Rental Services building is ready to break ground, the Student Success Center is well underway and proposed to be open by May of this year, according to Cindy Boyer, assistant director of student success.

Board members were enlightened to the progress the Student Success Center has had in its one year of operation — successes that Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said reiterated the necessity of the new facility for the campus.

The program uses a referral system to help students who may be struggling with course loads or other academic issues. Students who have been dismissed from an academic semester must participate in the program upon their return.

Boyer said the new program has

increased the number of students who have regained good standing from 34 percent to 92 percent by the students' next academic year.

The Student Success Center has been temporarily housed in McAfee Gym but will be moving to its new home with an addition to Ninth Street Hall, near Carman Hall.

In other items, the board approved the appointment of McCann as the representative to the Illinois public higher education cooperative.

McCann is filling the position left open by Jeff Cooley, former vice president for business affairs, who retired at the end of 2008.

He is also taking over the position of state purchasing officer. McCann's responsibilities include making purchases in the cooperative for bulk products such as paper for cheaper collective rates.

The board also approved two personnel contracts by addendum, both in the athletic department.

The board approved a three-year contract for head volleyball coach Alan Segal and a two-year contract extension for head football coach Bob Spoo.

Krystal Moya can be reached at 581-7942 or at ksmoya@eiu.edu.

» Panel

FROM PAGE 1

Schwartz will not be speaking at this one, however.

The panels will be held in the Charleston/Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

"Most visible crisis in the world, in terms of international crisis, are in the Middle East," Chen said. "War and conflict have always lived together there. Our mission is bringing the crisis closer to the students and campus more clearly and meaningfully."

He said Eastern was lucky to have top representatives come to campus so that they can speak a word of authority on the issues and each represent their own government.

Chen said a question to be answered would be "Can (these nations) co-exist?"

"They will discuss how to solve the problem in the Middle East and who is to blame for the trouble, and they are going to blame each other," he said. "We will try to have a solution of some sort, and this is a way to expose students to the real world and inform them on what is going on authoritatively."

"Most visible crisis in the world, in terms of international crisis, are in the Middle East."


— Ping Chen, director of the Public Policy Institute at the college of sciences

Mary Anne Hanner, dean of the College of Sciences, is going to be the moderator of the keynote address lecture.

"I will be introducing the ambassador and any other dignitaries that may be there," she said. "I do think it is going to be a very informative day with interesting panel discussions and very powerful discussions about the policies and the politics of the Middle East."

Admission to all events is free and open to the public.

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or haholm@eiu.edu.



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Murphy

FROM PAGE 8

Hanley has been a key part of the Lady Govs' offense. Drake was the OVC Freshman of the Year and is just a scoring machine, and Walker will likely be the starting point guard for the Panthers next season. Pollock versus Walker will be a key match up to watch. Both have

the athleticism and the skills to frustrate each other. Pollock and the Lady Govs proved the ability to frustrate the Panthers, including senior guard Megan Edwards. Walker will now be running Eastern's offense. She has the ability to take shots as well. This includes running the floor from end-to-end and scoring on a layup as she did many times this season. Walker can also step back and hit the 3-pointer. Eastern Illinois freshman forward

Chantelle Pressley will also be a key factor in next year's Panther squad. Pressley was the sub for Eastern senior forward Lindsey Kluempers and will be a forward that shoots the 3-pointer as well. The off-season will be a test for these freshmen. Drake will be asked to help build an ECU team that finished ninth in the OVC and did not make the OVC Tournament. Drake averaged 16 points per game, as well as a team-high 76

assists and 59 steals. "I think as far as being a freshman, she was an impact player for our program," ECU Robin Roberts told the Richmond-Register. "She was tough to defend and made some things happen, both on the defensive and offensive end." Even after freshman seasons are done, it's hard to tell what's going to happen. Eastern senior forward Rachel Galligan was the conference's freshman of the year. Former Eastern

guard Jessica Huffman transferred to Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis after her sophomore season. Last year's OVC Freshman of the Year was Samford guard Emily London. Samford is now in the Southern Conference. Nothing's a guarantee. But, it is going to be exciting to watch these freshmen develop. Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

BASEBALL | WEEKEND RECAP

Offense comes alive

By COLLIN WHITCHURCH Assistant Sports Editor

The warm Kentucky weather woke up the Eastern baseball team's bats this weekend. The Panthers scored a combined 26 runs in three games at the Cardinal Classic in Louisville, Ky., compiling a 2-1 record in the process with average temperatures around 71 degrees, according to weather.com. Eastern capped off its weekend with a 16-4 victory against Wisconsin-Milwaukee Sunday afternoon. Junior designated hitter Richie Derbak had a career-high five hits, with three doubles and his first home run of the season. He drove in four runs. "He got pitches to hit, and he hit his doubles the other way and pulled the home run," Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz said after Sunday's victory. "He was just on fire." Junior first baseman Jake Samuels got his first start of the season in place of junior Alex Gee and took advantage, hitting his first home run of the season in the fourth inning. The Panthers won their first game of the tournament Saturday, 4-3 against Wisconsin-Milwaukee. They dropped a 10-6 contest to the host Cardinals later that day. While Schmitz was impressed with the way his team's offense got going, he was really impressed with the performance of his pitching staff

during the weekend. Sophomore pitcher Josh Mueller started Saturday's win against Wisconsin-Milwaukee and earned the win, pitching 7 1/3 innings and allowing two runs on seven hits. Derbak - who also serves as the team's closer - picked up the save in relief. Sunday's win was more of the same for the pitching staff. Sophomore Mike Recchia improved to 2-0 after going seven innings and allowing just one run on four hits. He struck out seven. "Recchia, again, has just really gone out there and, three times starting, he's doing outstanding," Schmitz said. "It all goes together. He pitches well, and we feel good and hit for him." The Panthers let one get away in Saturday's loss to No. 25 Louisville. Eastern led 5-4 entering the bottom of the seventh, but the Cardinals jumped all over Eastern's bullpen, scoring a combined six runs in the next two innings against four relievers. Starter Tyler Kehrer allowed four runs in six innings and picked up a no-decision. The Panthers continue their season-opening road stretch Wednesday when they face Indiana State. First pitch is scheduled for 2 p.m. in Terre Haute, Ind.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or at cwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

Nationals

FROM PAGE 8

Boey won the 60-meter dash and finished third at the Arkansas Last Chance Meet on Friday night in Fayetteville, Ark. Boey is ranked 20th in the 60-meter dash (6.66 seconds). The automatic time is 6.63 seconds. In the 200-meter dash, he is ranked 13th in 20.93 seconds. The automatic time is 20.83 seconds. Boey said he is not sure if he will compete in the 60-meter dash, but said he originally used that event as a warm-up to the 200-meter dash. Boey said by far, the 200-meter dash is his best race. Holm will also be competing at his first national championship. "I feel happy for Dave," Masanet said. "He's been doing all the work." Holm is ranked 13th in the 800-

meter run (1 minute, 48.86 seconds). The automatic time is 1:48. Holm finished fourth in the 800-meter run (1 minute, 50.70 seconds), and senior Clint Coffey finished fifth in the event (1:52.97). Junior Chandra Golden finished fourth in the 60-meter hurdles at the Randall Tyson Center in Arkansas. Senior sprinter Shawana Smith won the 200-meter dash at NCAA Last Chance meet hosted by Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., on Saturday. Smith ran the dash in 24.51 seconds, which tied the school record set by Kyra Lobbins in 2005. Freshman DeMarcus Brooks won the 60-meter dash but did not hit a qualifying time. Sophomore Marcus Williams, senior Brenton Pegues and junior Ian Winston also competed at the Notre Dame Last Chance meet.

Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

Matches

FROM PAGE 8

"We need to really step up our game if we want to finish the season where we would like," sophomore Abby Allgire said. "We are not playing to our capabilities and, as a team, we need to change that around. Although we do show heart in our matches, we really need to play a complete match in order to

finish at the top." Eastern was on the wrong end of three-set matches. The Panthers lost the No. 2 through No. 5 singles matches in three sets. Both Eastern squads will return to action next Friday in both squads' home opener against arch-rival Western Illinois. First serve is set for 1 p.m. at Darling Courts. Wally Swenson can be reached at 581-7944 or at wfwswenson@eiu.edu.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GET FUZZY | BY DARBY CONLEY



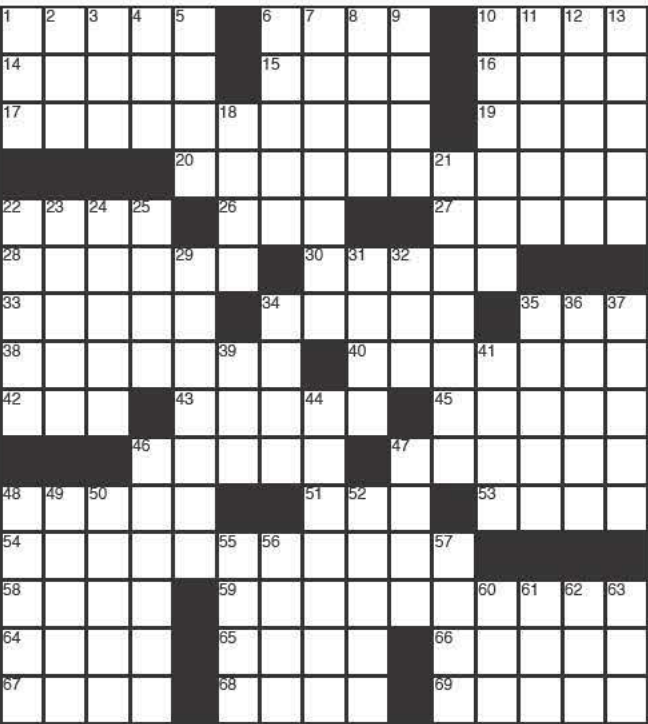
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0202

- ACROSS
- 1 Like Louisiana cuisine
 - 6 ____-bodied seaman
 - 10 Grocery carrier
 - 14 Astound
 - 15 Worker in an apron
 - 16 "Get ____ it!"
 - 17 Pinocchio, notably
 - 19 Sport on horseback
 - 20 Game console introduced in 2006
 - 22 Maryland seafood specialty
 - 26 CBS hit with two spinoffs
 - 27 Removes from office
 - 28 Betty Crocker offering
 - 30 Decree
 - 33 Dropped fly ball, e.g.
 - 34 Reason to replace a windshield
 - 35 Superlative suffix
 - 38 Parisian's "But of course!"
 - 40 Query from one who's ready to go
 - 42 What boring things never seem to do
 - 43 Impertinent
 - 45 Arrived after a trip
 - 46 Transport on a camp lake
 - 47 "____ Fables"
 - 48 "Drat!"
 - 51 Dog doc
 - 53 Snick and ____
 - 54 Female golfer who played in a pro men's tournament at age 14
 - 58 Cookie with a filling
 - 59 "You're absolutely right"
 - 64 Paraphernalia
 - 65 New ____ (57-Down, for one)
 - 66 Google competitor
 - 67 Mailed
 - 68 "Bill & ____ Excellent Adventure"
 - 69 With respect to
- DOWN
- 1 Ending with spy or web
 - 2 Doc org.
 - 3 Place to put tips
 - 4 Gun used in the Six-Day War
 - 5 Gas in diner signs
 - 6 Cries from the congregation
 - 7 More eccentric
 - 8 Low-calorie, in beer names
 - 9 Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
 - 10 Lame excuse
 - 11 Pledges
 - 12 On again, as a lantern
 - 13 Number after deux
 - 18 "Sweet!"
 - 21 Fee for a freighter
 - 22 ____ brûlée
 - 23 Aired again
 - 24 Bitter
 - 25 Life stories, for short
 - 29 Will validation
 - 31 Bit of salt
 - 32 "____ bin ein Berliner"
 - 34 Italian's "bye"
 - 35 John who sang "Bennie and the Jets"
 - 36 Run through a credit card machine
 - 37 In need of a massage, maybe
 - 39 Funeral ashes holder
 - 41 Outcome of a 10-17 game
 - 44 Detached
 - 46 Partner in crime
 - 47 End in ____ (come out even)
 - 48 Urban pollutions
 - 49 New staffer
 - 50 Where a hurricane develops
 - 52 Water pitchers
 - 55 Potential atty.'s exam
 - 56 Sled at the Winter Olympics
 - 57 "Only Time" singer, 2001
 - 60 Western treaty grp.
 - 61 Channels 14+

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

P	A	S	S	T	H	E	H	A	T		B	R	E	R
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PUZZLE BY DAMON J. GULCZYNSKI

- 7 More eccentric
- 8 Low-calorie, in beer names
- 9 Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
- 10 Lame excuse
- 11 Pledges
- 12 On again, as a lantern
- 13 Number after deux
- 18 "Sweet!"
- 21 Fee for a freighter
- 22 ____ brûlée
- 23 Aired again
- 24 Bitter
- 25 Life stories, for short
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- 31 Bit of salt
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- 60 Western treaty grp.
- 61 Channels 14+

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NATIONAL SPORTS

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Atlantic 10 Tournament |
4 p.m. on ESPN2

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
**Southern Conference
Tournament** |
6 p.m. on ESPN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
**Colonial Athletic Association
Tournament** |
6 p.m. on ESPN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
**West Coast Conference
Tournament** |
8 p.m. on ESPN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
**Metro Atlantic Athletic
Tournament** |
8 p.m. on ESPN2

SCOREBOARD

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No. 5 Austin Peay 69, No. 2 Eastern 65 (2OT)
No. 2 Eastern 64, No. 3 Tennessee State 48

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Kansas 4, Eastern 2
Eastern 7, North Dakota State 6 (8)
North Dakota State 1, Eastern 0
Northern Iowa 9, Eastern 0 (6)

COLLEGE BASEBALL
Eastern 16, Wisconsin-Milwaukee 4
Eastern 4, Wisconsin-Milwaukee 3
No. 25 Louisville 10, Eastern 6

MEN'S COLLEGE TENNIS
Butler 5, Eastern 2

WOMEN'S COLLEGE TENNIS
Butler 6, Eastern 1

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KEVIN MURPHY

Freshmen vital to conference

Austin Peay freshman guard Emily Pollock really did steal the show.

Pollock's key plays helped give the Lady Gobs an Ohio Valley Conference Tournament title.

But Pollock, Lady Gobs' freshman guard Whitley Hanley, Eastern Kentucky freshman guard Kayla Drake and Eastern Illinois freshman guard Pilar Walker will be exciting to watch in their final three seasons.

Pollock has the ability to steal and convert in transition and plays good defense and earned herself a spot on the OVC Tourney team.

>> SEE MURPHY, PAGE 7

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK | WEEKEND RECAP

Two reach nationals

Official times released tonight for seeding

By KEVIN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Eastern red-shirt freshman Zye Boey and senior David Holm are heading to the national championships.

Holm and Boey did not hit automatic marks on the track this weekend, but they have done enough to put themselves at the NCAA Indoor National Championships.

"Basically, they're both qualified," Eastern assistant coach Geoff Masanet said.

The competition, or the number of athletes who will compete at the national championships, will depend on the number of provisionally and automatic marks set by individuals. The NCAA Indoor Championships are on Friday and Saturday at Texas A&M in College Station, Texas.

The automatic mark set forth by the NCAA means the athletes have a better chance of being selected to compete at the NCAA Championships Friday and Saturday.

The accepted entries for the NCAA Championships will be released at 8 p.m. today.

Masanet said Boey and Holm are basically in, barring some weird event.

"I ran down the hall and was super excited," Boey said. "It was of the best feelings in the world."

The last Panther to participate at the indoor national meet was Gabe Spezia in 2000.

Boey qualified for the 200-meter dash and Holm qualified for the 800-meter run.

"I really didn't know I was going to be an NCAA qualifier my first season," Boey said. "I can be All-American as a red-shirt freshman."



ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior middle distance runner David Holm competes in the 800-meter run during the Ohio Valley Conference Championships on Feb. 27 in Lantz Fieldhouse. Holm and Boey will compete at the national championships.

>> SEE NATIONALS, PAGE 7



ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore Cara Huck prepares to hit the ball during tennis practice on Feb. 26 in Lantz Fieldhouse. Both tennis squads lost to Butler.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS | WEEKEND RECAP

Panthers lose both matches on the road

Women's squad drops three in a row

By WALLY SWENSON
Staff Reporter

The Eastern men's and women's tennis teams lost to Butler on Friday afternoon in Indianapolis.

The men's team lost 5-2 and the women's team lost 6-1.

"We definitely did not compete the way we wanted to," said freshman Drew Grimaldi. "We are at that point in our season where we need to step up the way we compete in order to finish the way we want to."

Senior Vuk Milicevic and junior Jeff Rutherford picked up the lone wins for the men's team, with

Milicevic coming from behind in a three-set win at No. 3 singles. Milicevic improved his singles record to 8-3 overall. Rutherford picked up the other victory for Eastern (6-5) after holding on for a three-set victory as well.

In doubles action, fellow senior Jordan Nestrud teamed with Milicevic to earn the victory. Their 8-4 win improved their doubles record to 7-0 on the season.

The Eastern women's team (3-7) has lost three straight matches in a row.

Freshman Shannon Brooks picked up the lone Panther singles win at No. 6 singles, winning in straight sets, 6-0, 6-2.

>> SEE MATCHES, PAGE 7

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

MEN'S GOLF
Today at Samford Invite |
All Day - Oneonta, Ala.

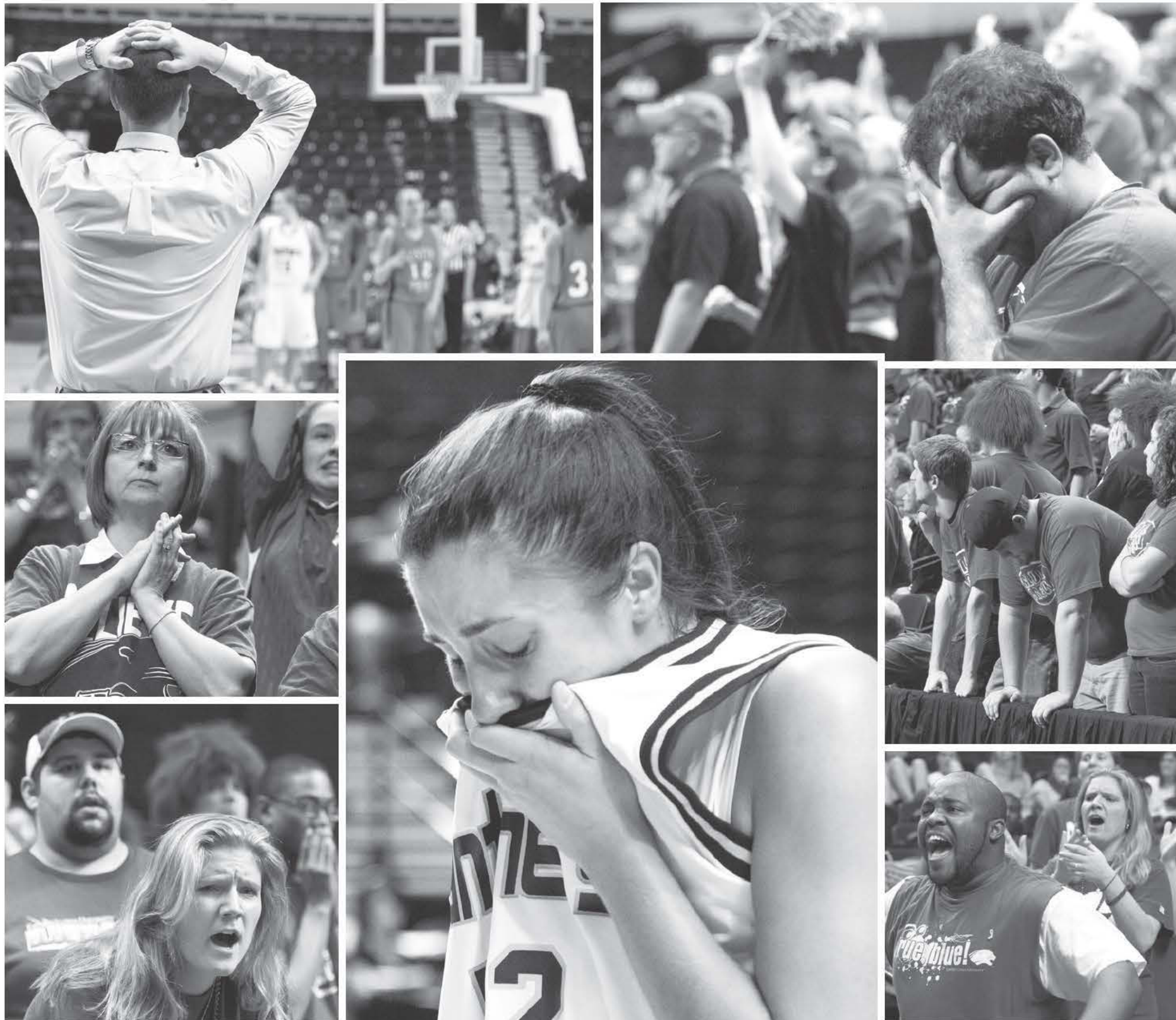
MEN'S GOLF
Tuesday at Samford Invite |
All Day - Oneonta, Ala.

BASEBALL
Tuesday at Indiana State |
2 p.m. - Terre Haute, Ind.

SOFTBALL
Wednesday vs. Indiana State |
4 p.m. - Williams Field

TENNIS
Friday vs. Western Illinois |
1 p.m. - Darling Courts

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | AUSTIN PEAY 69, EASTERN 65 (2OT)



ALYCIA ROCKEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Women's basketball head coach Brady Sallee watches the final game of the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament in Nashville, Tenn.; Blue Crew participant Moe Samad covers his face following Eastern's loss to Austin Peay; Members of the Blue Crew watch as the final seconds tick away in Eastern's loss to Austin Peay; Blue Crew participant Omar Solomon cheers on the women's team as they play Austin Peay; Senior forward Rachel Galligan cries following the team's loss to Austin Peay; Blue Crew participant Erica Jones cheers on the women's basketball team with other Blue Crew fans; Eastern senior guard Ellen Canale's mom, Joanne, cheers with other fans during Eastern's game against Austin Peay.

HEARTBREAK IN NASHVILLE

Twenty-five turnovers dooms team in loss to the Lady Govs

By **COLLIN WHITCHURCH**
Assistant Sports Editor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Just like that, it was all over.

Fifth-seeded Austin Peay stunned the Eastern women's basketball team 69-65 in double overtime Saturday afternoon in the championship game of the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

The loss ended the team's season one game short of an NCAA Tournament bid for the second consecutive year.

"It just wasn't our day," senior forward Lindsey Kluempers said after the loss. "They made more plays than us."

The second-seeded Panthers trailed by four with 38 seconds left

in regulation before tying the game with 11.4 seconds left to send it into overtime. Similarly, the Panthers led by four with just more than a minute to play in the first overtime before surrendering the lead with less than a minute to go.

In the double-overtime period it was all Lady Govs, led by freshman reserve guard Emily Pollock, who began the period with a layup and a 3-pointer to key Austin Peay's run.

The Lady Govs increased the lead to as many as 10 points with 1:05 remaining.

"We ran into a hot basketball team that had a lot of confidence and they played like it tonight," Eastern head coach Brady Sallee said. "I'm very proud of my kids' effort. Their heart, their determination. If we take a little bit better care of the ball and there's not an 18-free throw attempt discrepancy, things might've been different."

Pollock also had five steals in the

MORE ONLINE

Check out **Dennews.com** for a photo gallery from Friday's game against Tennessee State and Saturday's Championship game against Austin Peay in Nashville, Tenn.



game, including one with less than a minute left in regulation that led to an open layup to tie the game.

"She's just a bundle of energy for them and played her tail off," Sallee said. "She's a tough kid and made some big plays for them. She hit a very uncharacteristic three for them there in the second overtime that really helped them explode a little bit and open it up a little bit."

Turnovers plagued the Panthers throughout the game, as they finished with a season-high 25. Senior

guard Ellen Canale and red-shirt junior guard Dominique Sims combined for 15 turnovers.

Eastern senior forward Rachel Galligan led the charge for Eastern with 24 points on 12-of-15 shooting in 42 minutes. She also had four blocks in the game and was named to the All-Tournament team. No other Panther scored in double-figures, but senior guard Megan Edwards had nine points and eight assists in a career-high 48 minutes of action.

Galligan's 24 points gave her 1,891 to end her career, 84 more than the previous career-record she broke a week ago. She also finished with 582 points for the season, breaking JoAnn Archer's single-season record of 575 points set in 1981.

Sophomore guard Ashley Herring and senior forward April Thomas, offensively, led the Lady Govs.

» SEE HEARTBREAK, PAGE 2B



COLLIN WHITCHURCH

What went wrong?

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — It shouldn't have ended this way.

The storybook season of the Eastern women's basketball team was supposed to culminate in an Ohio Valley Conference Tournament Championship. It was supposed to end with jubilation, joy and excitement.

It wasn't supposed to end in heartache.

» SEE WHITCHURCH, PAGE 3B

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | TOURNAMENT NOTEBOOK

Galligan breaks another scoring record

Sets single-season scoring record in loss

By COLLIN WHITCHURCH
Assistant Sports Editor

Lost in the disappointment with the Eastern women's basketball team's loss to Austin Peay Saturday was yet another record broken by senior forward Rachel Galligan.

Galligan's 24 points gave her 582 for the season, breaking Eastern's single-season record for most points scored.

JoAnn Archer, who set it during the 1980-81 season, previously held the record.

With the season likely over, Galligan's final numbers include being Eastern's all-time leader in points, blocked shots, free throw attempts and free throws made. She finished her career fourth in career rebounds, single season scoring and also has program records in free throws made in a game, season and career and blocks in a game, season and career.

Thomas feeling great

Eastern junior guard Ashley Thom-

as was supposed to be out for the season with a back injury she suffered two months ago.

There were worries about how the injury would affect the rest of her career going forward.

The team learned that Thomas was going to be available for Eastern's stretch run, and she played limited minutes in Eastern's victories against Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech a week ago.

But it was not until Saturday's semifinal victory against the Lady Tigers that Thomas got into the full swing of things for the first time.

The reserve guard came off the bench to score 12 points and haul in six rebounds in 26 minutes of action.

In Saturday's championship game loss to Austin Peay, Thomas played 18 minutes and scored six points, grabbed five rebounds and dished out three assists.

"It feels great to be back in the mix," Thomas said. "I don't mind getting bumped around as long as I'm out there helping my team. That's all that really matters."

With four starters graduating, Thomas will likely be the Panthers'

starting shooting guard next season.

Top seed upset

The Panthers were not the only team upset by the Lady Gavs this weekend.

Austin Peay shocked the top-seeded Murray State Racers Friday afternoon to reach the title game, ending the Racers' bid for back-to-back Ohio Valley Conference Tournament titles.

Murray State, who has beaten Eastern four consecutive times, including in the OVC Tournament Championship a year ago, continued their high-scoring ways as senior guards Ashley Hayes, Amber Guffey and Paige Guffey combined for 79 points. However, the Lady Gavs answered Murray State shot-for-shot as they had five players score in double-figures, led by senior forward April Thomas, who had a career-high 25 points.

Likewise, Murray State was unable to get anything from anyone other than Hayes and the Guffeys, as the entire rest of their roster combined for just five points.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or cwhitchurch@eiu.edu.



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior forward Rachel Galligan jumps to make a shot during Eastern's double overtime loss to Austin Peay on Saturday afternoon in Nashville, Tenn.

» Heartbreak

FROM PAGE 1B

Herring finished with 21 points while Thomas added 13 and eight

rebounds.

Herring, Thomas and Pollock were all named to the All-Tournament team and Thomas was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

While the Panthers' dreams of an NCAA Tournament bid are over, they still have an outside shot at an invitation to the post-season National Invitational Tournament.

The NIT is a 48-team tournament that begins March 18. The tournament's selection day is March 16.

The Panthers will graduate five seniors from the current squad

in Galligan, Canale, Edwards, Kluempers and forward Julie Lipperd.

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WOMEN’S BASKETBALL | SEASON RECAP

Still a successful season

Records fell in team’s 24-win campaign

By **COLLIN WHITCHURCH**
Assistant Sports Editor

It would be easy to judge the Eastern women’s basketball team’s success this season based on its effort at the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

But, while the loss to Austin Peay Saturday stung and will leave a sour taste on the players’ lips for a long time to come, fans should not remember this year’s team for that alone.

The Panthers entered the 2008-09 campaign with expectations unlike any other in program history. Coming off a surprise 19-13 season that ended with a conference tournament loss to Murray State, big things were expected, and the Panthers delivered.

The most obvious success was with senior forward Rachel Galligan. She delivered in each of her first three seasons at Eastern and her senior year was no different. She cemented her status as arguably the best women’s basketball player in Eastern history, leaving with the all-time scoring record, the single-season scoring record and a bevy of other accomplishments – both on and off the court – that will be remembered for a very long time.

“I don’t know that I can say anything about Rachel that hasn’t been said,” Eastern head coach Brady Sallee said. “You talk about a kid that has poured everything she has into a basketball program for four years. She was incredible.”



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior guard Ellen Canale yells to a teammate during the OVC Tournament game against Tennessee State on Friday afternoon in Nashville, Tenn.

Likewise, the Panthers set several program records the team can take pride in. Their 24 wins are a program record in the Division I era, and they won 20 straight games in Lantz Arena, a record that also climbed as high as fourth in the nation at one point.

Development was also a key part of the season. While Eastern’s roster was senior-dominated, Sallee knew he had to look toward the future,

and the development of freshman guard Pilar Walker and freshman forward Chantelle Pressley proved critical down the stretch.

Additionally, junior forward Maggie Kloak and junior guard Ashley Thomas proved their worth as backups ready to step into the starting lineup next season.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or cwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

» Whitchurch

FROM PAGE 1B

But that’s what was seen on the faces of the Eastern players, coaches, parents and fans after the clock struck zero on the Panthers’ season.

There were slumped shoulders. There were looks of disbelief. There were tears.

How did this happen? How did an Austin Peay squad that was clearly overmatched in both of the teams’ regular season meetings come out victorious?

A number of factors played out in the defeat, but one glooming number hovered over each of the others.

Twenty-five.

A season-high in turnovers killed the Panthers Saturday afternoon, and that story was really nothing new.

Eastern dealt with turnovers all season long. The Panthers averaged 17.6 per game, but that number jumped to 19 in their losses, including 19 or more turnovers in six of their nine losses.

The biggest play of the game came in the first overtime. The Panthers had a four-point lead with a little more than a minute to play when Austin Peay sophomore guard Ashley Herring cut the lead to two with a jumper.

On the next possession, Eastern senior guard Megan Edwards was stripped of the ball by Lady Govs’ freshman guard Emily Pollock – one of her five thefts of the game – leading to an uncontested layup that tied the game.

If the Panthers held on to that ball with a minute remaining and got either a basket or a trip to the free throw line, they could have extended the lead to at least four, giving them command with little time remaining.

The free throw discrepancy can be looked at as another factor in the loss, but the referees can’t be blamed for that. Sure, The Lady Govs took 18 more free throws than the Panthers, but 22 of Austin Peay’s 32 free throw attempts came either at the end of regulation or at the end of the second overtime, and in both instances Eastern was intentionally fouling to try to claw their way back into the game.

Eastern head coach Brady Sallee saw those two factors – turnovers and free throws – as the reason the Panthers faltered. He said he didn’t think he used his bench the way he should have in overtime.

Sallee played his starting five throughout the entire end of regulation, all five minutes of overtime, and the entire second overtime up until senior guard Ellen Canale fouled out with 1:05 remaining and the game out of reach. But that should not be second-guessed.

Those five got Eastern to that point and Sallee had faith in them to bring home a title. Still, Edwards played a career-high 48 minutes and all five starters played at least 40 minutes in the game. Exhaustion had to have set in by the end of the second overtime.

It’s easy to second-guess. It’s easy to wonder what went wrong and to think about what could have been, but the fact remains that Eastern was flat-out outplayed by an inferior team Saturday afternoon. No excuses can be made and no questioning can be done.

All that’s left to do is to look back at a successful – regardless of how it ended – season, and get ready for another grueling season eight months from now.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or cwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | SEASON OUTLOOK



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

LEFT: Red-shirt junior guard Dominique Sims moves toward the basket during the women's game against Tennessee State Friday afternoon in Nashville, Tenn. **CENTER:** Junior guard Ashley Thomas looks for an open teammate during the OVC Tournament game against Tennessee State Friday afternoon in Nashville. **RIGHT:** Junior forward Maggie Kloak attempts a shot against Tennessee State Friday afternoon in Nashville. Sims, Thomas and Kloak are all expected to be returning seniors for the Eastern women's basketball team next season. Sims started for the Panthers this season while Thomas and Kloak came off the bench.

Big three should factor next season

Panthers rely on youth, experience for future

By KEVIN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Maggie Kloak. Ashley Thomas. Dominique Sims.

These three Eastern women's basketball players look to be the key figures on next season's team.

While Eastern will graduate five seniors, including four starters, Kloak believes the team can compete and be near the top of the Ohio Valley Conference again.

"People might think, graduating these seniors, that we won't have a great team," Kloak said. "I believe in the team we're going to have next year."

Kloak, who will be a senior forward, will see the ball down in the post for Eastern's offense next season.

Samford head coach Mike Morris said last season that Kloak was one of the top five post players in the league.

However, Kloak has to fill a lot of work left by Eastern senior forward Rachel Galligan.

Galligan is the school's leading scorer with 1,891 points. She is also the school's fourth leading rebounder and ultimately one of the best forces ever on the block.

But, Kloak is using the instruction from Galligan and from every senior to make herself and the rest of the Panthers better.

"They've taught us a lot about basketball," Kloak said. "A lot of

the hard work that they've put in has been passed onto us."

The Panthers finished second in the OVC for two straight seasons and made the OVC Tournament Championship game two seasons in a row.

Sims, a red-shirt junior guard, averaged 8.6 points a game, 4.5 rebounds and finished the season with 88 assists, 39 steals and 14 blocks.

She earned All-OVC Newcomer honors last season while averaging 9.2 points and 4.9 rebounds per game.

Thomas should be another starting guard for the Panthers next season. She has come off the bench for the past two seasons but started a lot as a freshman.

Her back injury slowed her at

the end of this season and the beginning of her sophomore season.

Thomas started 27-of-29 games her freshman season, playing almost 30 minutes a game and averaging 9.7 points a game. Thomas made clutch shots and will be a vital member of the defense as well.

Freshman guard Pilar Walker will handle point guard duties. Walker was the primary backup to senior guard Megan Edwards for most of this season.

Freshman forward Chantelle Pressley also looks to be a possibility for the starting lineup. Pressley often was the first substitute for senior forward Lindsey Kluempers.

Other Panthers to figure into the mix off the bench include junior guard Lauren Sturtevant,

freshman guard Madeline Kish and junior forward Marie Baker. The Panthers will also return sophomore guard Jerika Carpenter.

Next year's recruiting class includes two forwards and three guards who earned honorable mention recognition from Blue-Star Basketball. Forwards include Whitney Young's Mariah King (6 feet, 2 inches) and Chesteron's (Ind.) Morgan Palombizio (6 feet). Guards Ta'Kenya Nixon and Bianca McGee could also play a factor out of Michigan City, Ind., and guard Kelsey Wyss (5 feet, 10 inches) could make a difference out of Bishop Luers in Hoagland, Ind.

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